

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 10, 15, 17-19 and 21 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 5, 7, and 11 are amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

1. (Currently amended) A method for screening for compounds secreted by a[n] microorganism, comprising:

- (a) cultivating the microorganism to produce a supernatant or a supernatant including surface bound compounds of the microorganism which comprises at least 2 secreted products,
- (b) [(a)][raising] preparing a mixture of antibodies [against secreted products of a donor organism] by immunizing an animal with the supernatant comprising at least 2 secreted products and isolating the mixture of antibodies formed in the animal,
- (c) [(b)] providing a gene library from the [donor] microorganism,
- (d) [(c)] cloning the gene library into a suitable host organism,
- [(d)] expressing the cloned genes in the host organism, and]
- (e) screening the clones of the host organism using the isolated antibody mixture to identify [detecting] positive clones expressing a cloned gene encoding a secreted compound [using the antibodies of (a) to identify such positive clones.], and
- (f) screening positive clones for peptides or proteins having a desired function or subjecting positive clones to nucleotide sequencing in order to identify genes encoding compounds of interest.

2. (Original.) The method of claim 1, wherein the secreted compound is selected from the group consisting of enzymes, other proteins and peptides.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein positive clones are isolated and subjected to at least one additional screening step.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein positive clones are subjected to at least one additional screening comprising cultivating said positive clones and assaying them in a second immunoassay using the same antibodies as used in the first immunoassay to eliminate possible false positives.

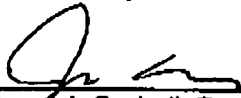
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, [wherein] further comprising [the supernatant obtained from] cultivating positive clones to obtain a supernatant and using the supernatant [is used] as a starting material for additional screening steps.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the secreted product is an enzyme, and wherein at least one enzyme produced by a positive clone is isolated and tested in a functional assay for desired enzymatic activity.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the donor organism [strain] is a microorganism.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of subjecting a secreted compound from a positive clone to an assay in which a desired functionality is tested for to identify clones that produce a compound exhibiting the desired functionality.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the desired functionality is selected from wash performance, thermal stability, substrate specificity, catalytic turnover, oxidation stability, sensitivity to inhibitors, pH optimum, detergent stability, stability against microbial inactivation, toxicology, distribution profile in the human or animal body, metabolism products, side effects, rate of metabolism or secretion, receptor binding capacity, and antimicrobial capacity.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [the preparation of a gene library of step (b) includes a step of mutating a nucleotide sequence of the library.
- 12-21. (Canceled)
22. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the supernatant comprises at least 2 secreted compounds.
23. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the supernatant comprises compounds bound or associated to cell membranes of the microorganism.
24. (New) A method for screening for compounds secreted by an organism, comprising:

- (a) cultivating the organism to produce a supernatant or a supernatant including surface bound compounds of the organism which comprises at least 2 secreted products,
- (b) raising antibodies against all compounds in the supernatant or the supernatant including surface bound compounds,
- (c) providing a gene library from the organism,
- (d) cloning the gene library into a suitable host organism,
- (e) screening the clones of the host organism using the isolated antibody mixture to identify positive clones expressing a cloned gene encoding a secreted compound, and
- (f) screening positive clones for peptides or proteins having a desired function or subjecting positive clones to nucleotide sequencing in order to identify genes encoding compounds of interest.

The Office is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this response or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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